

Subject: From the President's Desk

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To: "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good morning everyone! Last Tuesday night we had the longest board meeting that we have had during my tenure as president of Delta. Although I didn't plan it this way for that reason, I am taking tomorrow and Monday as vacation days. However, I welcome the brief respite from the intense efforts that we have been undertaking to purchase property and to rev up our bond program (among other things). I guess this is also a mini-vacation *before* the holidays, given that the holidays aren't nearly as restful as they should be these days! For those who like to know these things, my wife and I are heading to Tucson where I will be running a marathon this weekend and trying once again to get a good enough time to qualify for my dream of running the Boston Marathon. Wish me luck (but know that I haven't exactly gone out and made any plane reservations for Boston)! I have always been a runner of sorts, but I never got into marathons until I came to Delta and met **Joe Gonzales**. Joe has been a great running partner and coach and I truly thank him for inspiring me to greater efforts and accomplishments (as meager as they are) as a runner!

A Christmas Carol

Last weekend my family and I attended the Saturday evening production of *A Christmas Carol*. Of course, that is my favorite story of the holiday season. I especially love the 1951 movie version, entitled *Scrooge*, starring Alastair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge. I never get tired of watching that movie and I make sure and watch it at least once every Christmas. I have passed that tradition on to my children and I think they love it as much, if not more, than I do.

Although they are in different mediums, I have to say that Delta College's production comes in a close second to Alastair Sim's definitive version of the Dickens classic. **Harvey Jordan** was superb in the lead role of Ebenezer Scrooge and **John White** delivered another extraordinary directorial effort. Maybe I am excessively maudlin, but the story never fails to bring a tear to my eye or to wrench a resolution out of me to keep every day as if it were Christmas. The Delta production didn't disappoint in eliciting those feelings from me. We are fortunate to have such great theater right here on our doorstep!

Winter Buffet

On Wednesday, I attended the Winter Buffet put on by the Culinary Arts program. If you didn't go, you missed an incredible feast. I have been to many buffet dinners over the years and the best buffet that I had previously attended was at a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. I am not exaggerating when I say that the buffet that was prepared and presented by Delta's Culinary Arts students is better than the Ritz-Carlton! **Chefs Potter** and **Halabicky** and the other Culinary Arts staff deserve a thundering applause for their culinary expertise.

Next Wednesday is my annual Holiday Open House at the Horton Gallery at 11:30 am. The Culinary Arts Program will be catering this year's event. I really hope that everyone will have an opportunity to stop by, even if only for a few minutes, to share a little holiday cheer and scrumptious munchies!

Student Recognition Ceremony

Last week the Academic Senate sponsored the Student Recognition Ceremony for the fall semester. As I have said before, this event is my favorite (other than graduation) as it is great to see the pride in students being recognized for their special efforts, outstanding performances, leadership, or other characteristics. Students were honored from the Business Division, the Social Sciences Division, the Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics Division, the Guidance and Counseling Division, and the Science and Mathematics Division.

Dr. Condon

As you should all know by now, Dr. Condon returned to Delta last Friday. It is great to have Della back and she has jumped right in with her usual enthusiasm and gracious manner. If you haven't personally welcomed her back, I know that she would appreciate your dropping by to say hello.

By the way, Dr. Condon will be in charge of the college during my brief absence.

Kudos

Congratulations to **Coach Michaela Reyes** and the Delta College Women's Volleyball team for their valiant effort at the state volleyball tournament. Michaela has set the bar very high for herself and for her team in her first year. I wish her many years of success!

We received a message from Vivie Sinou at Foothill College praising the invaluable assistance of Delta's **Jon Townsend**. For those who are not familiar with Vivie, she is the person in charge of developing and administering the Etudes-NG course management system that some Delta faculty are using to deliver their distance learning courses. It seems that they were having a number of difficulties in getting Etudes-NG to work correctly and Jon provided invaluable expertise in solving some of the more stubborn problems. We have many resources here at Delta and Jon is another example of the incredible talents of our staff members.

Delta Music Instructor **John Villec** is the 2006-2007 recipient of the ASCAPLUS Award in Concert Music. If you are like me, you don't have a clue as to what ASCAPLUS means. I found out that it stands for the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. From what I understand, this is a prestigious award and Mr. Villec was selected for this award by an independent panel that evaluated his catalog of original compositions. Although I'm not sure how much money is involved, there is a monetary payment attached to this award (how great is that!).

It is also my pleasure to announce another award. **Debra Landre** of the Mathematics Department has been presented with the Community College Distinguished Service Award. Debra is the second Delta faculty

member to receive this distinguished award for lifetime achievement in mathematics education. **Ray Wuco**, who is now retired, received this award in 1992. As far as we know, Delta is the only community college to have two faculty recipients of this award. Congratulations Debra!